

*Gen. Counsel*  
*OGC 9-1756*

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[REDACTED]  
7 December 1959

**MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Chief, Development Projects Division**

**SUBJECT : Contracting Officer's Delegation of Authority**

**REFERENCE : A. Memo for [REDACTED]  
DPD, Subject as above, dated 26 September  
1959, with atts, [REDACTED]**

**B. Memo for AC/DPD from DD/P, Subject  
"Budget Status and Program Approvals,"  
dated 1 September 1959**

1. I have not signed the proposed [REDACTED]

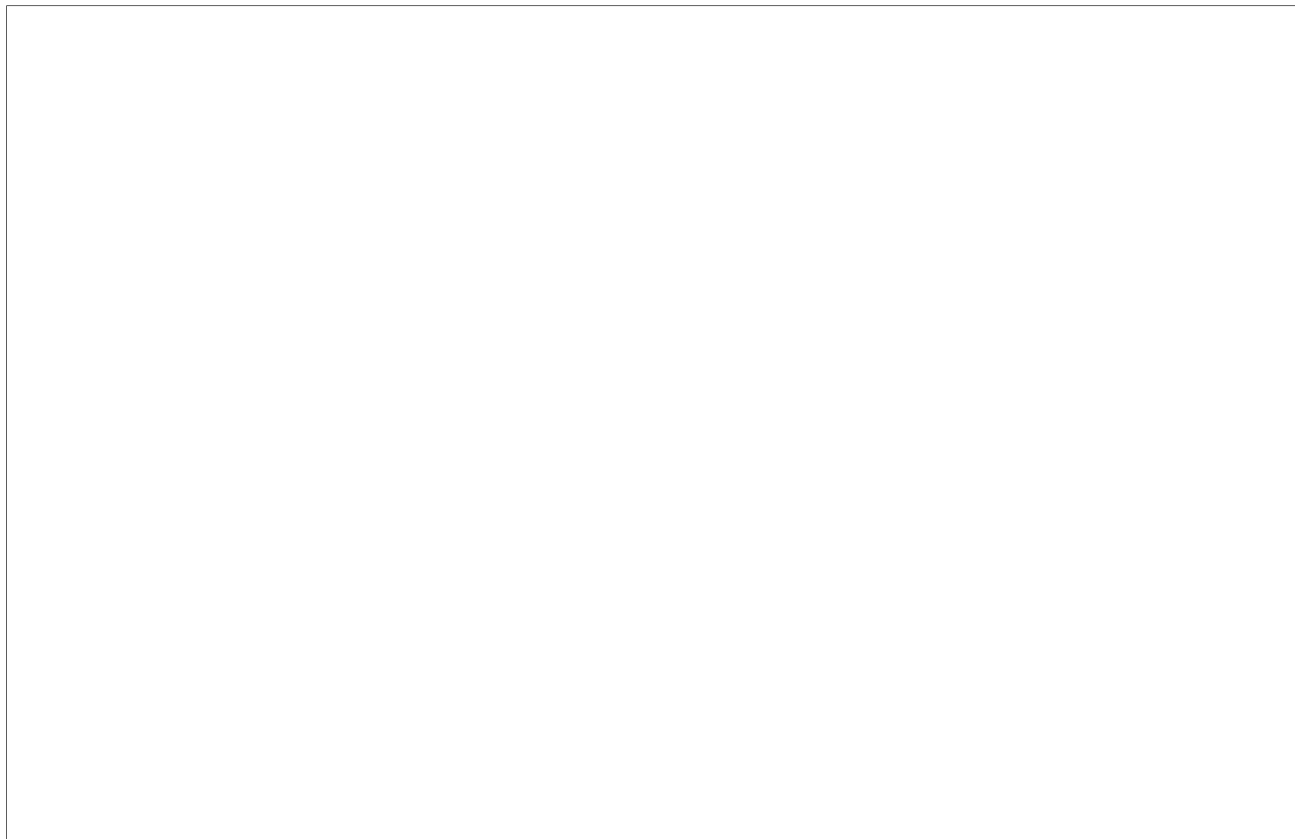
2. I would like to take this occasion to call your attention to the developments in both terminology and procedure which will be reflected in the above language.

b. By approval of this document, the Director will approve budgets for what might be described as the more or less routine activities of DPD, including especially its continuing overhead in the form of salaries of personnel, travel, and the like. The Operational Program, however, specifically calls for separate

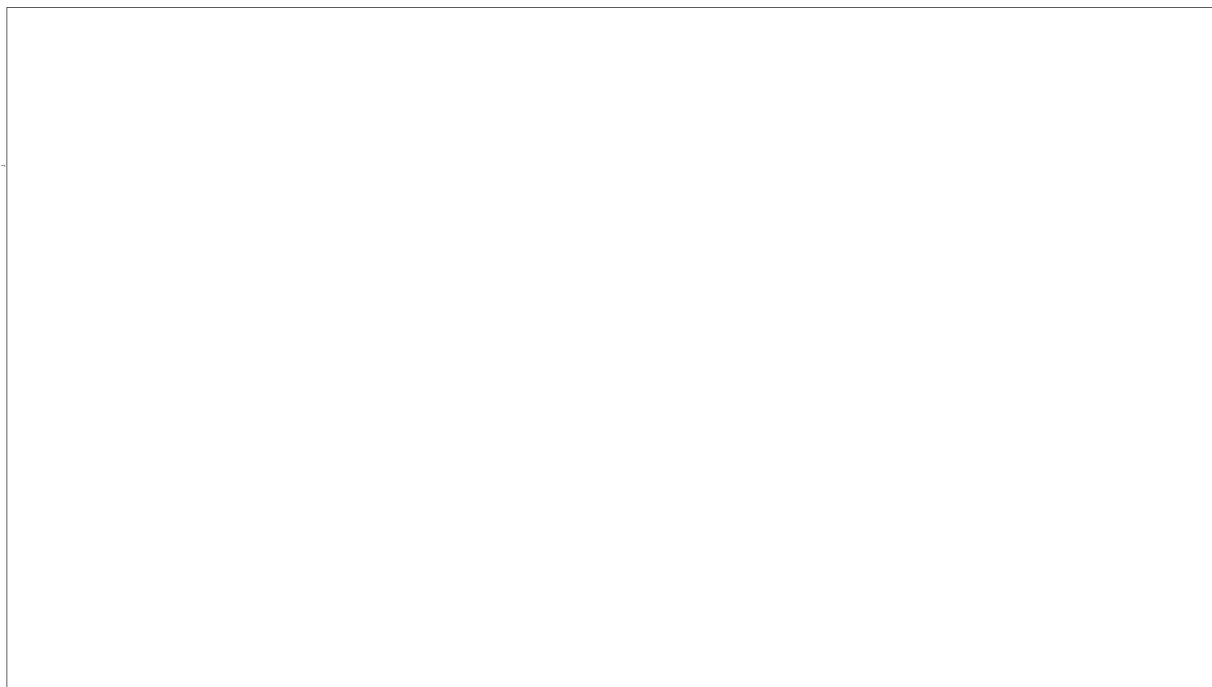
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3. I really believe that we almost have this problem solved. The developments discussed above amount, in fact, to very little change from the method of doing business that we have evolved during the course of the present year. With respect, however, to the language discussed in paragraph 1 above, there is, I believe, no way to avoid two hard recommendations:

a. The Contracting Officer cannot be authorized to sign contracts except for an activity that has been approved; and

b. Policy approval for specific activities should neither be sought nor granted until they can be presented as elements of coherent programs, except, of course, in an emergency.

Bureaucratically as it may seem, therefore, we are going to have to write annual Operational Programs (budgets) and separate Activity Programs (projects) in an informative and timely fashion or else be stopped from carrying on our business.

4. If the foregoing is reasonable,  can be redrafted for my signature.

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**RICHARD M. BISSELL, JR.**  
Deputy Director  
(Plans)

Atts:

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